

**U.S. Department of State**  
**U.S. Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security**

Podcast Transcript

**“Nigerian Women Can Do More for Peace & Security”**

**Music/Standard Intro:**

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**Opening**

**Narrator:** President Obama signed an Executive Order launching the first-ever U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security – a comprehensive roadmap for accelerating and institutionalizing efforts across the United States Government to advance women’s participation in making and keeping peace. The Action Plan aims to strengthen the efforts of U.S. government agencies to protect women and children from abuse and exploitation and firmly asserts that women can contribute to conflict prevention and the creation of stable societies based on lasting peace.

**Narrator:** U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Terence P. McCulley says Peace and Security impacts every segment of the society, and the role of Nigerian women, who constitutes more than half of the population, is vital.

**Ambassador McCulley:** Nigerian women are very dynamic and resourceful. Whether in Aba, Zaria, Lagos, or Kano, Nigerian women have contributed to peace making and the well-being of their country. They have, working with their counterparts in the international arena, also contributed to the global quest for peace and security, BUT THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DO MORE.

**Narrator:** Secretary of State Hillary Clinton explains why women are the key to more peaceful and prosperous societies...

**Secretary Clinton:** For years, many of us have tried to show the world that women are not just victims of war; they are agents of peace.

Now I know some of you may be thinking to yourself, “Well, there she goes again. Hillary Clinton always talks about women, and why should I or anyone else really care?” Well, you should care because this is not just a woman’s issue. It cannot be relegated to the margins of international affairs. It truly does cut to the heart of our national security and the security of people everywhere, because the sad fact is that the way the international community tries to build peace and security today just isn’t getting the job done. Dozens of active conflicts are raging around the world, undermining regional and global stability, and ravaging entire populations. And more than half of all peace agreements fail within five years.

Whether it's ending conflict, managing a transition, or rebuilding a country, the world cannot afford to continue ignoring half the population. Not only can we do better; we have to do better, and now we have a path forward as to how we will do better.

**Closing:**

**Narrator:** Nigeria could make better progress by supporting women in political, economic, and peace-making roles.

**Music/Outro/Standard**

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